

## February 2026 Parent Newsletter



Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026

### How time flies!!!

It is hard to believe that this is my penultimate parents newsletter as we enter the second month of the New Year 2026! In less than 7 weeks my time at KPINS as Headteacher comes to an end after more than 24 years at the helm! The reality that I will no longer be a part of this wonderful school community which is more like a family fills my heart with huge sadness.

In preparation I have been spending time clearing out over 24 years of files and documents. It was while I was doing this that I came across a newspaper cutting from 1982 acknowledging the retirement of the Headteacher of Kenmore Park First school as it was called at the time – Miss Molly Sturdy who lead the school after the war for 21 yrs.

**Tuesday, June 15th, 1982**

### Escape to freedom from a hectic life



**MISS Mollie Sturdy**, headmistress of Kenmore Park First School for 21 years, retires on July 23.

She is one of the longest serving head teachers in Harrow and her decision to call it a day, ends a career spanning 34 years.

"I am looking forward to the freedom of retiring. As a teacher everything is bound by the clock. It will be marvellous not to have to be accountable all the time," she said.

Miss Sturdy, who lives in Rickmansworth, is 60 this month. After retiring, she plans to move to Suffolk and spend more time walking and bird-watching.

She joined Kenmore Park First School, Moorhouse Road, Kenton, in January 1961. Before that she spent seven years at neighbouring Priestmead First School, the last four as deputy head.

During World War II, she served as a personal assistant in the Auxiliary Territorial Service — the women's Army — helping with troop reinforcement.

She said about retiring: "I shall miss the friendship of my staff and the very hectic life we lead in schools nowadays."

The job of headmistress had changed in her 21 years at the school. When she

joined she was in charge of 165 pupils. Now it is 255.

"The job has got much more difficult. So much legislation has been passed and there is so much paperwork to do."

She is proud of the part she played in setting up the Harrow Schools Art Library — a stock of multi-ethnic pictures, sculptures and art works loaned for display to the borough's schools.

### Violence study

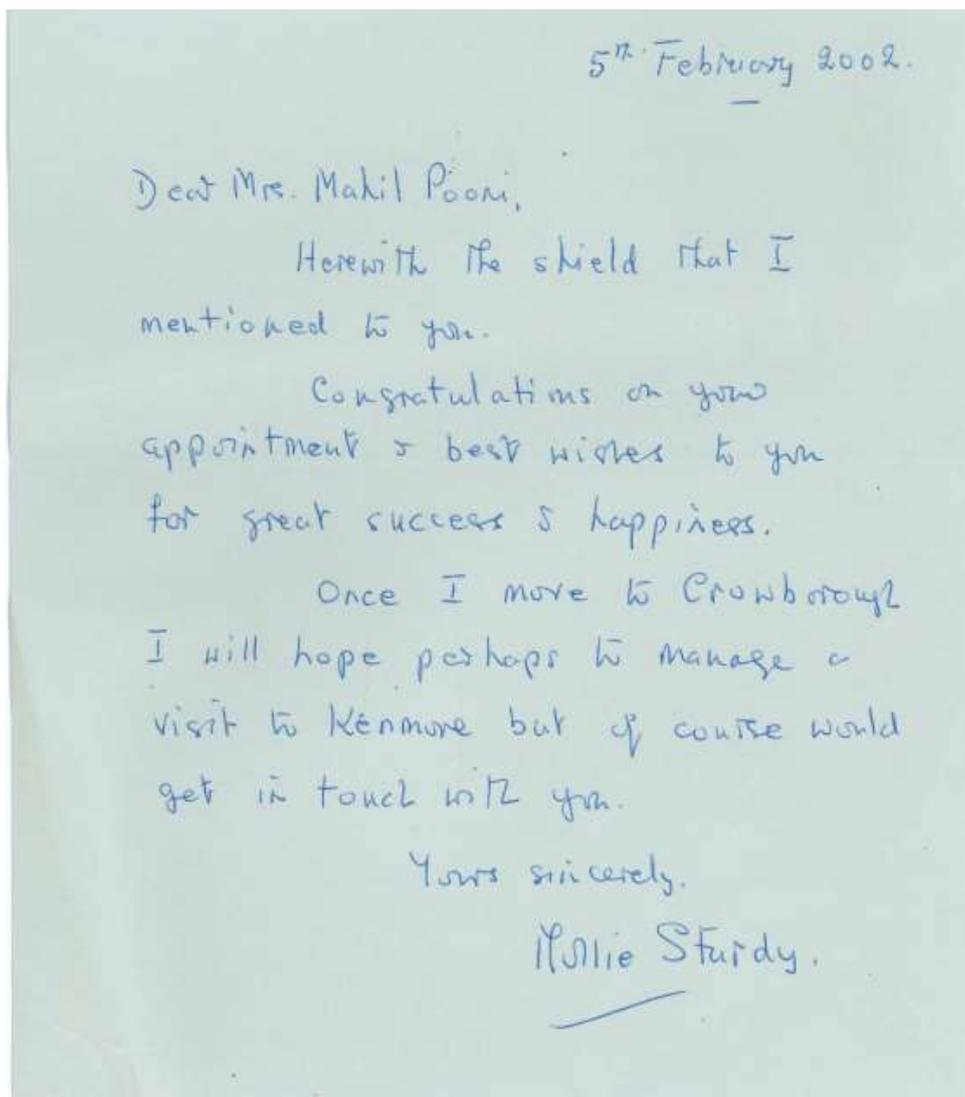
She has also been keen to create a multi-cultural atmosphere at Kenmore Park. "I want people to feel that when they come into the school, it belongs to everybody, and that all the different kinds of children who come here are equally important," she said.

Miss Sturdy has represented Harrow's head teachers on the Area Review Committee into Non-Accidental Injury — violence against children — for the last three years.

"I am deeply concerned about this, because it is growing and teachers should be aware of it."

A farewell party and presentation is being held on July 9. Any former staff, pupils or parents who would like to contribute, are asked to contact deputy head Miss Joy Allen.

When I became the Headteacher of Kenmore Park Infant School in 2002, I was touched to receive a letter from Miss Sturdy congratulating me on my appointment which I came across in one of the many draws I was sorting through as I prepare for my retirement!



5<sup>th</sup> February 2002.

Dear Mrs. Mahil Pooni,

Herewith the shield that I mentioned to you.

Congratulations on your appointment & best wishes to you for great success & happiness.

Once I move to Crowborough I will hope perhaps to manage a visit to Kenmore but of course would get in touch with you.

Yours sincerely,  
Mollie Sturdy.

What resonated with me was the comment about workload and pressures faced in the 1980's as they are similar if not even more today than they were back then!

In the coming weeks governors will share details of my predecessor as I prepare to retire and hand over to the Interim Headteacher who will be taking over from me. The Interim Headteacher will be joining the school from the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026, will be working alongside me so that I can ensure a seamless as possible transition.

**Celebrating Reading at KPINS as we share with you the children who have made improvements in reading and won a token to collect a free book from our vending machine.**

Reading and the teaching/learning in phonics continues to be a school improvement priority, each month we will continue to share images of the children who have made improvements in their reading.

**During the autumn term 149 books were received by pupils for making improvements in their reading and achieving 6 stars on their reading cards. January has been a very busy month!**



Our 1<sup>st</sup> pupils this school year 2025-26, to receive a book from the vending machine are: Clarence (who was also the first pupil last academic year!), Amarah and Iosua from Year 2 – Chameleon Class.  
Well done we are so proud of you!

I am really proud to announce the names of the children who have received books during January:



Congratulations to Daniel, Pavitraba and Noah from Robin Class.



Congratulations to Nataly, Heer, Daiana and Vlad from Robin Class.



Congratulations Thomas & Daniel from Robin Class.



Congratulations to Medeea, Keily and Matias from Kingfisher Class.



Congratulations Aayan & Naomi from Owl Class.



Congratulations to Clairra, Filip, Nitya from Ali Dolphin Class.



Congratulations to Ruth, Amelia and Hadasa from Dolphin Class.



Congratulations to Matei and Riya, Shahan from Dolphin Class.



Congratulations to Darius and Omar from Starfish Class.



Congratulations to Abel, Khalid and Emma from Starfish Class.



Congratulations to Hitansh, Hiba and Amelia from Sea Turtle Class.



Congratulations to Sumaiya and Laura from Sea Turtle Class.

			
<b>Congratulations to Jiya, Prahar, Durva and Krushi from Sea Turtle Class.</b>	<b>Congratulations Sharth from Sea Turtle Class.</b>	<b>Congratulations to Anelisse, Panthi, Ruth and Ezra from Chameleon Class.</b>	<b>Congratulations to Matei from Chameleon Class.</b>
			
<b>Congratulations to Agness, David, Omar and Elias from Lemur Class.</b>	<b>Congratulations to Dihan, Amarah, Zaim and Eyas from Lemur Class.</b>	<b>Congratulations to Oti, Kabir and Iosua from Lemur Class.</b>	<b>Congratulations to Mohammed and Pranavi from Lemur Class.</b>
			
<b>Congratulations to Ayan from Jaguar Class.</b>	<b>Congratulations to Rohaaniya &amp; David from Jaguar Class.</b>	<b>Congratulations to Andreea from Jaguar Class.</b>	<b>Congratulations to Sathvik from Jaguar Class.</b>
			
<b>Congratulations to Emily and Ivaan from Jaguar Class.</b>	<b>Congratulations to Emima, Heny, Patrick &amp; Kiyen from Jaguar Class.</b>	<b>Congratulations to Khadija, Sofia A &amp; Timotei from Jaguar Class.</b>	

### **IMPORTANT REMINDER:**

If you do not wish for your child's photograph to be shared in the monthly newsletter please send an email to the school office: [office@kpins.harrow.sch.uk](mailto:office@kpins.harrow.sch.uk) subject: reading vending machine pictures, Stating: I wish for my child to opt out of having their image shared in the monthly newsletter if they receive a free reading book from the reading vending machine.

**If we do not hear from you, we will assume you are happy to allow your child's picture to be shared and uploaded onto the school website too as part of the monthly newsletter!**

## **Our Harrow Schools Counselling partnership – Therapeutic Lead**

Sometimes we could all do with someone to talk to. If you would like to meet Swati (our new therapeutic lead) for a confidential and non-judgemental chat about you, your child, or any other worries, she is available on a Wednesday. You can email her at [\*\*Swati@schoolscounsellingpartnership.co.uk\*\*](mailto:Swati@schoolscounsellingpartnership.co.uk).

### **Safeguarding**

At the start of a new school term it is vital that you check that all your contact and emergency contact details are up to date and accurate. Please ensure any changes to contact numbers are regularly checked and updated. If you change your phone or number, emergency contacts, inform the school office staff. If at any time you have made an alternative arrangement for someone to collect your child from the school, please inform the office and/or the class teacher at drop off and where possible introduce them to the school staff in advance, but most importantly ensure they have the password you have provided. In line with our safeguarding practices we will not release your child to anyone who does not know the password nor into the care of a minor (anyone under the age of 18 years), so please do not send older high school siblings to collect your child from school.

**Remember:** If you arrange for another adult to collect your child from school – phone ahead and inform the school or inform the class teacher at drop off in the morning, ensure that you provide them with their details (name, gender and relationship to you or the child) and also ensure that they know the password. **We will not release your child to anyone who does not know the password.**

Also, if you have changed your mobile number or emergency contact details please make sure they are updated as soon as possible.

### **Recycling school uniforms – Help another family!**

Please continue to support us by recycling good condition school uniforms as your child grows out of them. Remember it can help another family who may be finding it hard to purchase uniform items at full price. We will keep the container for old uniforms in the playground permanently so please keep decluttering and dropping items into the box as and when you can.

### **Attendance reminder ....**

School attendance is monitored by the DfE and LA who forensically analyse the data of any pupils who do not have regular school attendance and particularly those whose attendance falls below 90% who are deemed persistent absentees. Stricter rules and attendance expectations are being enforced by the DfE making it harder for parents to keep their child off school.

I would like to remind parents of the exceptional leave criteria. Exceptional leave is absence that is necessary in an emergency and usually immediately on the day or as close to the day the leave request is made. All evidence provided must substantiate the request. Exceptional leave does not include time off to attending family and friend events abroad (which is a choice) or medical treatments that could be accessed here in the UK. Where parents have made decisions to travel and take their child out of school we ask parents to make an appointment to discuss their plans prior to making any bookings so that parents are made aware of the implications of their decisions.

Where leave is taken during the term time it is unlikely to be approved and could result in an educational penalty notice – FINE of a minimum of £80 per child per parent.

We have noticed patterns of attendance falling particularly prior to or immediately after a school holiday – please ensure that you make arrangements to travel during school holiday time and not during term time. Outward bound and inward bound bookings should demonstrate intention to travel and return before the school resumes after travel during a school holiday.

Due to the increase in the number of parents travelling during the school holidays and then claiming their child/ren or they then become too sick to travel back in time for the start of the school, the school will not be approving this leave (it will be recorded as unauthorised). Overseas medical evidence will not be accepted. We are not obliged to accept medical evidence from abroad. Unfortunately, it has come to light that too many parents are using this as an excuse to extend their time aboard and a consistent approach will be applied.

The law has changed; you do not need to have 5 consecutive days of absence to qualify for a penalty notice an aggregate of any unauthorised absence during the academic year are included provided they total at 5 or more days.

Also please note any absences during the last week prior to a school holiday will need to be evidenced in line with the LA absence procedures. You will be required to have your child's sickness checked by the school welfare, so the child will need to be brought into school and the welfare Miss Nubuor will check to see if the child is fit to be in school or not. Alternatively, medical evidence will need to be requested from a GP in the form of a print out of the in person consultation (not over the phone) and proof of any medication prescribed. We have also been informed by the Court Attendance Officer to also check the child's passport on their return to school as evidence that they have not travelled and used sickness absence as an excuse.

Please be reminded that a fine to parents must be considered if a child misses 5 days of school for unauthorised absence. The cost for the **fine is £80** (per parent) **if paid within 21 days** and **£160 if paid in 28 days**. If a second fine is issued within a 36-month period, it will start at £160 per parent.

Note that every time your child is absent from school they are missing an average of 5 lessons per day. Over a school week that amounts to over 25 lessons missed!

**TERM TIME LEAVE not permitted!**

**Exceptional circumstances mean exceptional!**

**Religious leave in line with the Harrow SACRE Calendar only.**

*Honesty is the best policy!*

**Please note the guidance on sickness absence that can be authorised below with evidence to support it.**

Should I Keep My Child off School?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor coughs & cold	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ear infection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Whooping cough	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Covid
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sore throat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cold sores	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High temperature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flu
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conjunctivitis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tonsillitis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chickenpox	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scarlet fever
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Respiratory infections	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Head lice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diarrhoea & vomiting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Measles

**GO TO SCHOOL**

**STAY AT HOME**



**Please note below the school term dates and holidays.**

These are shared in the monthly newsletter and can be found on the school website. Therefore, there is no excuse for any parent to claim they are not aware when making requests for leave which needs to be avoided during term time.

**School Term dates 2025-2026**

**Spring Term 2026**

<b>Half term</b>	Monday 16 February– Friday 20 February
Back to school	Monday 23 February
INSET DAY (Children not in school)	Friday 27 February
<b>Last day of term</b>	Friday 27 March ( <b>finish at 2 p.m. Reception &amp; 2.15 p.m. KS 1</b> )

**Summer Term 2026**

<b>First day of school</b>	Monday 13 April
<b>Half term</b>	Monday 25 May – Friday 29 May
Back to school	Monday 1 June
INSET DAY (Children not in school)	Friday 19 June ( <b>Infant School ONLY</b> )
<b>Last day of term</b>	Friday 17 July ( <b>finish at 2 p.m. Reception &amp; 2.15 p.m. KS 1</b> )
INSET DAY (Children not in school)	Monday 20 July

**NB: Reception finish at 2 p.m. and years 1 & 2 (KS 1) will finish at 2.15 p.m. on the last day of each term. This does not apply to half term holidays.**

**There is no afternoon nursery session on the last day of each term due to the early finish time.**

**Please note there is NO school on Bank Holiday.**

**Bank holidays 2025/26:**

Friday 3 April	Good Friday
Monday 6 April	Easter Monday
Monday 4 May	May Day Bank Holiday
Monday 25 May	Spring Bank Holiday
Monday 31 August	August Bank Holiday

**The 2026/2027 term dates can be found on the school website. So make sure you check them out**

**before making any travel arrangements.**

**A REMINDER OF OUR COMPULSARY SCHOOL UNIFORM & PE UNIFORM**

Please be reminded that the school takes a hard line regarding compliance with the school uniform. It is parents' responsibility to ensure that their child is wearing the school uniform as stipulated in the school prospectus and website. On Wednesday's we require all children in Year 1 and 2 to wear the schools PE uniform which comprises of **Grey joggers (Option of black shorts in the summer) a grey top and black trainers/plimsolls and not their own sportswear.** This uniform can also be worn for PE lessons, in line with their class timetables, on days other than Wednesday. All Uniform orders can be made via the Weduc App at the school shop.



It has been noted since the start of the school term that a number of children are not wearing the appropriate clothing and black shoes. Please respect the school's policy and practice by ensuring your child comes to school in the correct uniform. We thank you in advance for your support and compliance.

**During the summer term pupils permitted to wear the following:**

Girls may wear Black or Grey Trousers too.

White socks or grey tights

Boys' black or grey socks.

Summer dress from April – July only



**The following information will help you plan for forthcoming events and plan your diaries. (please note there may be times when dates have to be changed due to unforeseen circumstances so please keep checking the monthly newsletter for updates.)**

**Parent meetings Spring term 2025.**

**Parents meetings**

	<b>SPRING</b>	<b>TERM</b>	<b>2026</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Year group</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Arrangements</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	All Year groups	Parents open day/ meetings & KS 1 Mid-Year reports	12.30 – 7 p.m.	Book appointment slots via Weduc	Classrooms/ Year 2 in the school hall.
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	All parents	Coffee Morning	9 a.m.	PINs Project	School hall.

**Parental Engagement Session Spring 2026.**

Our parental engagement sessions will resume after the Christmas break when the children have settled back into the school routines. Please note the provisional dates so that you can plan to attend.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Year group</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Arrangements</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	Nursery	Parents workshop focused on – communication & language.	9 a.m. 1 p.m.	Morning Nursery Afternoon Nursery	Nursery
		<b>Half</b>	<b>term</b>		
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Year 1	Maths seminar lesson focused on Number & Calculation	9 a.m.	Dolphin Class	School hall
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 1	Maths seminar lesson focused on Number & Calculation	9 a.m.	Sea Turtle Class	School hall
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 1	Maths seminar lesson focused on Number & Calculation	9 a.m.	Starfish Class	School hall

Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Reception	Maths workshop focused on Numerical Patterns.	9 a.m.	Robin Class	School hall
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Reception	Maths workshop focused on Numerical Patterns.	9 a.m.	Kingfisher Class	School hall
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Reception	Maths workshop focused on Numerical Patterns.	9 a.m.	Owl Class	School hall
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 2	Maths seminar lesson – focused on number and Calculation.	9 a.m.	Lemur Class	School hall
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 2	Maths seminar lesson – focused on number and Calculation.	9 a.m.	Chameleon Class	School hall
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Nursery	Parents workshop focused on – Maths.	9 a.m. 1 p.m.	Morning Nursery Afternoon Nursery	Nursery
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 2	Maths seminar lesson – focused on number and Calculation.	9 a.m.	Jaguar Class	School hall

### **Useful website:**

Please find below link to the Bell Foundation website which provides translated guidance for parents on the education system in the UK and the expectations.

<https://www.bell-foundation.org.uk/resources/guidance/parental-involvement/guidance-for-parents-english-education-system/>

### **FREE SCHOOL MEAL ELIGIBILITY CHECK worth checking as the government continue to give food vouchers during the holidays!**

It is important that parents check their eligibility criteria as a number of parents found themselves to be eligible during lockdown. They were then issued with free school meal vouchers which they could use to purchase food at a supermarket of their choice. It is important that you check as it may be helpful in the event of a second spike!

**Parents can check to see if they meet the eligibility criteria by following the instructions below:**

**Step 1:** Login to the following website: <https://pps.lgfl.org.uk> (Free School Meal Eligibility Checker)

**Step 2: Click – Check eligibility**

**Step 3: Click – create an account** (Unless you already have an account in which case you go to return to your account and enter your password)

**Step 4: Create an account**

**Step 5:** On the drop down menu:

Local authority – select - **Harrow**

School – select – **Kenmore Park Infant & Nursery School.HA3 9JA**

**Step 6:** Read and accept the privacy notice **by ticking the box at the bottom of the page.**

**Step 7: Enter your details:**

**First name**

**Last name**

**Your date of birth**

**Your National Insurance number**

**Email address**

**Mobile number**

**Postcode**

**Get address: click on your address; house number etc**

**SUBMIT**

Once you have submitted the form you will receive a response in a couple of days confirming your status. If you are eligible, please forward the email to the school on the following email address:

**office@kpins.harrow.sch.uk**

### **School Travel**

At Kenmore Park Infant and Nursery as a Gold Award Healthy School, we feel very strongly about how children travel to school and encourage all pupils to walk or scooter to school rather than travelling by car. This is good for their health and also for the environment – helping to reduce carbon dioxide and pollutions which contributes to the increase in the number of pupils suffering from Asthma!

We have designated pods for parking bikes & scooters in different areas of the school for the convenience of parents. We realise that some children live some distance away from the school and may need to come by car however, we would ask that parents park a little distance away from school and walk or allow their child to scooter the remainder of the route to school.

It is lovely standing outside the school each morning and seeing the number of children on scooters increasing and they are really enjoying their journey to school. Our thanks to **YOU parents** for your support.

As an incentive for children who walk we promote **Walk on Wednesdays – ‘WOW’**. Children who walk, scooter or bike to school every Wednesday of each month, we reward the class with the most children walking on a Wednesday at the end of the month. We look forward to your support with this initiative.

For the most WOW in the month of **January** the award goes to **Jaguar Class**. **Well done Jaguar Class for the third consecutive month!**

### **A gentle reminder about the guidance and law around the use of EV Bikes in the UK!**

The number of parents now bringing their children on EV bikes is increasing so we have sought advice from our local police on this matter as one parent hit a child pedestrian last week whilst riding a bike on the



pavement. The neighbourhood Police have also been patrolling the area recently to ensure safe practice is being followed!

Please note the guidance below:

In the UK, electric bikes (EAPCs) can be used like normal bicycles if the motor is under 250 watts and stops helping at 15.5 mph. If a parent is riding a lawful EAPC (i.e., under the 250W/15.5mph limit) with their child on a bike (say a family carrier or child seat), then in principle they are using a lawful form of transport. **if they are using it on roads/cycle tracks, and not on the pavement.**

However, if the parent or child is using the bike on the pavement (where pedestrians are walking), that is **NOT** in line with the law (unless it's a marked shared use cycle-pavement). **This is a safety concern.**

Please click the link for more details from UK GOV.

### **Riding an electric scooter: The Rules**

#### **Electric cycles and the law: what you need to know**

**In summary, E-bikes and bicycles must not be ridden on pavements unless signs show its shared use.**

Parents should dismount and walk their bikes on pavements or near the school gates. **If a cyclist bumps** into someone while riding on the pavement, it can be an offence under the Highways Act. The **matter can be reported to police if there is injury, damage, or if the behaviour is repeated.** The rider could be prosecuted or forced to pay compensation for any damage or injuries sustained by the victim!

Parents should also avoid taking their bikes through the reception/nursery gates as the walk way is too narrow and safety is compromised. Nor should parents park their bikes immediately between the nursery and delivery gate blocking access. We appreciate your support with this.

### **Reminder about Parking**

**We continue to receive complaints from local residents** - Residents report parents persistently blocking their drive ways and confirm that at no time have they **given permission** to any parents to park in front of their drive ways. A number of the residents have shared they have life threatening medical conditions which require them to have immediate, emergency access to their drive ways – so please respect their wishes and if no spaces near the school are available – park and walk, the exercise is good for everyone.



### **JOB VACANCIES**

**We are still in need of staff for the following posts:**



**As and When Lunch time leaders** (1 hour 10 minutes per day) – are you able to work flexibly between the hours of 11.30 – 1 p.m.

Please visit the school website (complete the non-teaching application) or school office and request a paper version of the application form. Clearly indicate the post you are applying for and demonstrate in your supporting statement how you are able to meet the person specification.

### **A Parent Governor vacancy open.**

The governing bodies of the two schools are looking to recruit a Parent Governor from either school to join the newly formed federated Governing Body from September.

Therefore, if you are interested in becoming a parent governor **please visit the school office for a nomination form** or email [office@kpins.harrow.sch.uk](mailto:office@kpins.harrow.sch.uk) with subject – Parent Governor nomination form and we will email you one out to you. We will need the completed form returned by **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026**. If there are more nominations than positions elections will be held during the week commencing **23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026**.